

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02671 211821Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 211753Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 262

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2671

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF ANDREI AMALRIK

1. SOVIET DISSIDENT ANDREI AMALRIK WAS ARRESTED EVENING FEBRUARY 20 SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING EMBOFF'S FLAT, WHERE HE HAD DINNER. AMALRIK WAS TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION AND HIS WIFE WAS LATER TOLD THAT HE HAD BEEN SENT TO THE SMALL TOWN IN KALUGA OBLAST' IN WHICH HE LEGALLY RESIDES. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER AMALRIK HAS BEEN RELEASED OR WILL REMAIN IN PRISON. HIS WIFE FEELS THAT THE AUTHORITIES WANTED HIM OUT OF MOSCOW DURING THE CONGRESS. SINCE HE IS NOT ALLOWED LEGALLY TO LIVE HERE, ARRESTING HIM AND SENDING HIM OUT OF TOWN PRESENTS NO LEGAL PROBLEM FOR SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

2. AMALRIK WAS ARRESTED SOME TWO HUNDRED YARDS AWAY FROM THE DIPLOMATIC COMPLEX IN WHICH HE HAD HAD DINNER. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD PLANNED THE MOVE IN ADVANCE. THERE WAS A MILITIA MAJOR AND AN EXTRA MILITIA MAN AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL GUARD. MOREOVER, AMALRIK WAS FOLLOWED BY TWO PLAINCLOTHES COPS AS HE AND HIS WIFE LEFT EMBOFF'S BUILDING, AND WERE MET AROUND CORNER BY A CAR IN WHICH HE WAS REMOVED.

3. COMMENT: AMALRIK, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ONLY DISSIDENT IN MOSCOW TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SO FAR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESS, IF IN FACT THAT IS THE REASON FOR HIS HAVING BEEN TAKEN. SOME
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OF THE MOST PROMINENT DISSIDENTS, SUCH AS GENERAL GRIGORENKO AND

A NUMBER OF DISSIDENT ARTISTS, HAVE, HOWEVER, JUDGED IT BETTER
TO LEAVE MOSCOW DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CONGRESS. WE AGREE
WITH AMALRIK'S WIFE THAT THIS MOVE IS CONNECTED WITH THE CONGRESS
AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY PORTEND FURTHER JUDICIAL MOVES AGAINST
AMALRIK.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY DISSENSION, ARRESTS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW02671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760066-0151
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxlr.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF ANDREI AMALRIK
TAGS: PINT, UR, (AMALRIK, ANDREI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006